



Ambassador Jeffrey L. Bleich – Arnold Schwarzenegger Introduction

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**Ambassador Bleich's Remarks  
Introducing Arnold Schwarzenegger at  
The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Financial Education Summit  
June 13, 2013**

(As prepared for delivery)

We've been trying to get Governor Schwarzenegger to Australia for quite a while, so I'm pretty happy he's having such a successful visit. No doubt when he leaves here, he'll let you know that "[he'll] be back." I'm sure he's sick of everyone quoting that particular line, but at this point, it's pretty much expected. I'm a little surprised he didn't sign an executive order against using it while he was governor.

While many of you know him from classics like the *Terminator* films and *Predator*, those of us with kids are familiar with a slightly different library. I can't tell you the number of times I've assured one of my children that some lump or bump was "not a tumah."

I met Arnold for the first time right after he was elected governor of California. He invited me to come and talk to him before he took office. I was pretty excited because we met at a studio and I got to see all of his memorabilia. We had a great conversation. I was impressed with his insights, his knowledge of the issues, and his CEO instincts. He must have thought I was ok too, because he asked me if I would serve as his legal advisor while he was governor.

I said, "I'm very flattered, but if my wife knew I was thinking about going into government service and moving to Sacramento, she'd kill me."

And he replied, "Join the clahb."

On a more serious note, one of the things I respect most about the Governor is his embrace of bipartisanship. He understands that neither party has a monopoly on good people or good ideas. He knows that it is important – although frequently thankless – to reach across party lines for the good of the people you serve. He recognizes that your opponents on one issue may be your allies on another, so it's wise to show them respect even when you disagree with them.



I'm grateful that he – a Republican – gave a Democrat like me the opportunity to work with his administration. Although I was not able to serve as his legal advisor, he was gracious enough to appoint me to the California State University Board of Trustees. It was one of the most satisfying opportunities I have had to serve the public.

As governor, Arnold positioned California for a new era of prosperity. He signed the United States' first law capping greenhouse gas emissions, worked hard to make reforms to the prison system, raised the state's minimum wage, and was committed to improving California's infrastructure. This is especially impressive when you realize just how many voter initiatives restrict government action, and how gridlocked the California legislature was prior to redistricting.

I think part of the reason he was successful is because of the leadership skills and pragmatism he brought to the State House. But I think part of the reason he was successful was that the legislature was just a little bit afraid of him. After all, this is a man who single handedly saved the world from aliens and rogue machines AND gave birth. That's not a person you want to say no to very often. I mean, all of that is fiction, but there's a certain part of you that wonders if there isn't the tiniest chance that he might come into your office and say something like: "Consider this a veto."

Never one to rest on his laurels, Arnold continues to make an impact. He's working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption around the world through his R20 organization. He's continued to be an inspiring figure in advocating for the Special Olympics. He's continuing to advance non-partisan solutions to the most pressing global problems of today through the University of Southern California's Schwarzenegger Institute. In short, whether it is getting people to improve their fitness, clean their environment, or eradicate homicidal aliens, Arnold keeps doing whatever it takes to make the world a better place.

So, as the U.S. Ambassador, I'm grateful that the Governor has joined us here, and is extending his work down under. He knows that, just as one party doesn't have all the answers, neither does one country. So it's important to reach out to our friends and see how we can work together to make the world a better place.



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I look forward to partnering with him again when I return to California. I heard rumors he's making a sequel to the comedy "Twins." If so, I'd like to offer my services as his better looking, fitter, taller, younger brother.

So now I'll say "Hasta la vista, baby," and get off the stage so you can hear from the man you've all come to see – Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.